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Another typical Communist claim pertaining to 161
the growth in population is the report on the situation in central Honan Province. The two hsien of Hsi-hua (Sihwa) and Fu-kou (Fukow) had experienced many floods from the Yellow River system, and as a result the population in this area had been dwindling. However, the 1953 census figure of 706,963 for this area was described in the Chinese Communist press as representing a "tenfold increase" as compared with 1947.[6] Similar situations have been reported in other areas within this region where natural disasters once held down or reduced the population. Since "liberation," the population has grown rapidly. This trend is being cited repeatedly to substantiate Peking's claim of economic and social improvement throughout the region.

III. INTERNAL MIGRATION

There is no study available on the migration of 166
population during World War II when the Central-South Region was despoiled. A national trend of return to war-ravaged areas once occupied by the Japanese was evident in 1945-49, and this region was no exception. The trend, however, was not well-defined and no accurate measurement of it was made because of the ensuing civil war and the chaotic conditions that prevailed throughout China immediately after the Japanese surrender. It probably will never be possible to compile statistics to show what percentage of the population in this war-dislocated region went back to urban centers in 1945-49 or drifted out of the cities in quest of a means of livelihood. After the establishment of the Peking regime, a systematic effort was made to relocate the population by (1) encouraging the surplus urban population to move to the countryside, to reclaim old abandoned farms or develop new ones, and (3) inducing or forcing people from congested

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areas to go to work on large-scale construction projects. In this region the following trends can be observed: 166

A. Migration to Industrial Centers

The Central-South Region has been designated in Peking's five-year plan as a center for steel and iron industries. Many cities in this region were marked for expansion. In early 1954 modernization and public works construction programs were started in the nine cities of Chengchow, Loyang, and Hsin-hsiang, in Honan Province; Wuhan and Huang-shih in Hupeh Province; Hsiang-t'an and Chu-chou in Hunan Province; and Canton and Chan-chiang in Kwangtung Province. (See chapter on Geographical Setting.) Of these cities, Huang-shih and Chan-chiang are both newly developed centers. Huang-shih, situated on the Yangtze River about fifty miles east of Wuchang, is the river port for the coal mines of Tayeh, and has been described as already having expanded from a one-street town to one of six streets in a few years.[7] In the city of Hsiang-t'an a new textile factory is reported to be under construction.[8] Toward these centers the migration of population in the region is generally oriented. 166 178

B. Labor Exodus to Construction Centers

Large numbers of workers and their families have been moving near the government-operated construction projects in this region. The partially completed Ching-chiang Flood Diversion Project in wes- 166 464

7. Jen-min Jih-pao [People's Daily], Peking, April 19, 1954, p. 2.

8. Ibid., February 21, 1954, p. 2.

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tern Hupeh Province, the steel bridges across the Han and Yangtze rivers, and other projects at various stages of completion have been drawing tens of thousands of people. Press reports in Communist China reveal that the general plan seems to be to move these "migrant workers" from project to project, according to the schedule of completion. No end of these projects is in sight. (For details, see related chapters in Economic Section.)

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C. Settling on New and Reclaimed Farms

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The development of collective farms by reclamation of wastelands in Honan, Kwangtung, and elsewhere in this region calls for the settlement on the new farms of farm laborers drawn from varying sources -- surplus rural population, convicts sentenced to forced labor, and the unemployed from large cities. Migration does not flow in one direction, nor is it confined within the Central-South Region. Not a few of the migrants have been directed to the northeast in Heilungkiang Province, to the north in Inner Mongolia, to Sinkiang Province in the northwest, and south to the Vietminh territory in Indo-China.[9] Anti-Communist sources have reported that from April 16 to May 10, 1955, 60,000 people representing 15,000 families had been moved from the Yellow River area, including Honan Province, to the Northeast Region. The same source also reported that 5,000,000 people were to be sent from Hupeh, Hunan, Kiangsi, and other provinces, according to Communist plan.[10] These reports are generally borne out by information from Communist sources, although Communist re-

9. Ya-chou Tien-hsün [The Asia Foundation News Bulletin], San Francisco, October 20, November 11, Dec. 2, 1954; Jan. 6, Feb. 21, Apr. 21, May 17, 1955.

10. Ibid., May 27, 1955.

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ports understandably differ in the number of people concerned, and the manner of, as well as the people's reaction to such migrations. 166

Anti-Communist sources, claiming access to informants in Mainland China, further report the flight to large cities of rural people in search of food confiscated in lieu of taxes by the Communists. A number of these reports trace some of these emigrants from Kwangtung to Hong Kong or Macao, which are foreign territories.[11] If such reports could be supported by facts, and the number of emigrants were substantial, it would follow that discontent among some sections of the population in Central-South China had developed to a critical degree. 167

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11. Ibid., March 8, 9, 14, 15; April 14, May 24, 1955.

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the fact that they have preferred to live like the Han Chinese makes mention unnecessary.[3] Those who were unwilling to adapt themselves simply migrated south into Kwangtung and Kwangsi. 162

II. THE HAN CHINESE

Han Chinese constitute only 60 per cent of the total provincial population in Kwangsi Province, whereas in the other five provinces of the Central-South Region the Han Chinese constitute a greater majority.

At the beginning of the Christian era, Honan and Hupeh were already populated by Han Chinese.[4] Although Hunan was first claimed and colonized by the Han Chinese in A. D. 47, Kiangsi in 138 B. C., and Kwangsi and Kwangtung in 221 B. C.,[5] intensive Han migration into Hunan and Kiangsi began only in the T'ang dynasty (A.D. 618-907). The loss of Kaifeng, Honan, by the Sung to the Chin Tartars further intensified the southward migration of the Han Chinese. Only during Mongol rule in China did 162 166

3. Li, Chi, The Formation of the Chinese People, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press, 1928, pp. 248-50.
4. Ibid., p. 231.
5. Ibid., p. 248.

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permanent occupation of Kwangtung and Kwangsi by the Han Chinese occur.[6]

The Han Chinese in the provinces of Honan, Hupeh, Hunan, and Kiangsi speak Mandarin and are more homogeneous than the Han Chinese in Kwangtung and Kwangsi. There have been three major migrations of Han Chinese into Kwangtung and Kwangsi, each resulting in their settling in a different geographical locality and their speaking a different dialect:

1. From Kiangsi came the first group of Han Chinese who crossed Ta-yü-ling(Mountain) and reached the fertile Yüeh River delta by the Pei River. From this delta they spread along the Tung, Pei, and Hsi rivers. This group now speaks the Cantonese dialect.

2. From Fukien came the second group of Han Chinese by the sea route. They occupy the coastal plains ranging from the Han River delta to Hainan Island. This group now speaks the Ch'ao-chou and Hainan dialects.

3. The third group of Han Chinese immigrants are the Hakka, who migrated from Honan to Kiangsi before they came to occupy the interior mountain and river valleys in eastern

6. Ibid., p. 236.

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Kwangtung, at the end of the Ming dynasty (A. D. 1368-1644) and the beginning of the Ch'ing dynasty (A. D. 1644-1912). The Hakka dialect, different from the Cantonese and Fukienese dialects, more closely approximates the dialects in Central China.[7] On the other hand, because there are verbal similarities between Thai and Hakka,[8] the Hakka people are often confused with non-Han tribes, especially since they have some physical characteristics which resemble those of their neighboring tribal peoples in Kwangtung and Kwangsi.[9]

The Han Chinese in Kwangtung and Kwangsi moved from east to west in their attempts to find places in which to settle. Consequently today there are more Han Chinese in Kwangtung than in Kwangsi.

On Hainan Island, Cantonese-and Fukienese-speaking Han Chinese are found along the coastal plain, with large concentrations of Fukienese-

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7. Ch'u Chao-t'ang, Hsin Chung-kuo Ti-li, [The Geography of New China], Shanghai, Ta Chung-kuo t'u-shu chü, 1953, pp. 192-93.

8. Wilhelm Credner, Cultural and Geographical Observations Made in the Tali (Yunnan) Region with Special Regard to the Nan-Chao Problem, Bangkok, the Siam Society, 1935, p. 16.

9. Harold J. Wiens, China's March toward the Tropics, Hamden, Conn., The Shoe String Press, 1954, p. 272.

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speaking Han Chinese in the northeast, while the Hakka-speaking Han Chinese are found in the northwestern corner intermingled with Thai immigrants from Indo-China.[10]

Comparing the Han Chinese in Kwangtung and Kwangsi with the northern Chinese, the former are generally shorter in stature, showing the effect of a series of admixtures of non-Han blood in the course of Han migration. It can be stated, therefore, that the Han Chinese are more homogeneous in civilization than in racial composition. (For cultural characteristics of the Han Chinese, see chapters on Social Structure and Family in this handbook.)

III. THE NON-HAN ETHNIC GROUPS

The attached ethnographic map indicates the distribution of non-Han ethnic groups, and a table contains some detailed information concerning the six most numerous non-Han ethnic groups.

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10. Ch'en Chih, Hai-nan-tao Hsin-chih, [A New Gazeteer of Hainan Island], Shanghai, 1949, p. 89; Li Tai-ch'en, Hai-nan-tao Chih Hsien-chuang, [The Present Situation on Hainan Island], Shanghai, Shih-chieh shu-chü, 1947, p. 18.